

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY COM/ASIA:RWWILEY:DKK

APPROVED BY COM/ASIA:RWWILEY

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P 031907Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 051866

AIDAC SINGAPORE FOR RCMO BANGKOK FOR KRANKER

SINGAPORE PASS TO BOURNE, KRANKER PASS TO BOURNE

FOL REPEAT COLOMBO 732 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TAIPEI NEW DELHI

27 FEB.

QUOTE

UNCLAS COLOMBO 732

AIDAC

TAIPEI FOR RCND BOURNE

NEW DELHI FOR RLA HAGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AID LOAN 383-TAPQT AID-OWNED FERTILIZER

ON MV TONG HWA

REF: STATE 034101

1. AT CEYLON FERTILIZER CORPORATION'S (CFC) URGENT
REQUEST ON 2/WTN AID REP VISITED MV TONG HWA SAME
AFTERNOON. DISCHARGE NOW DOWN TO DECKS IN ALL HOLDS,
LOOSE CEMENT ON DECKS FROM PREVIOUS VOYAGE CONTAMINATING

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LOOSE UREA AND REACTING TO PRODUCE AMONIA FUMES. CFC

ESTIMATES 400 LOOSE CEMENT-CONTAMINATED UREA STILL ABOARD.

AID REP OBSERVED ALL HOLDS, SAW EVIDENCE OF CEMENT, AND SMELLED FUMES, PARTICULARLY STRONG AT NO.6 HOLD.

2. CONVERSATION WITH CAPTAIN DEODHAR (TONG HAW), GUNNFSTNGHE (CFC), AND CAPTAIN ROBERTHUBT LEARMOUTH OF PANEL OF SURVEYORS FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REVEALED:

(A) SHIP CARRIED CEMENT ON EARLIER VOYAGE PRIOR TO CAPTAIN DEODHAR'S COMMAND. NEXT VOYAGE, DEODHAR IN COMMAND, CARRIED SCRAP IRON. SURVEYORS IN MANILA DECLARED SHIP FIT FOR PRESENT CARGO WITH USE OF 8' X 5' WOVEN STRAW MATS AND POLYTHENE SHEETS ON HOLD-BOTTOMS. (LEAK HAS NOW DEVELOPED IN NO. 1 HOLD.)

(8) DEODHAR CLAIMS THAT IF BAGS HAD HELD, UREA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ARMED BY LOOSE CEMENT, AND IF COLOMBO STEVEDORES HAD NOT TAKEN UP PIECES OF POLYTHENE, CONTAMINATION OF LOOSE UREA WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

(C) CFC CLAIMS SHIP NOT CLEAN AS REQUIRED BY CHARTER PARTY, AND LOOSE UREA REQUIRED USE OF SHOVELS WHICH PENETRATED POLYTHENE REGARDLESS OF CFC'S WORKS AT HUNUPITIYA REFUSES TO ACCEPT CEMENT-CONTAMINATED UREA UNLESS ALREADY BAGGED.

(D) SURVEYOR LEARMOUTH AND SUPERINTENDENCE COMPANY WILL PREPARE REPORTS WITH COPIES FOR AID.

(E) PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ARE: HOW TO REMOVE REMAINING CARGO WITH AMMONIA FUMES IN HOLDS, ARE COSTS OF SPECIAL HANDLING AND MARKETING RECOVERABLE THROUGH SETTS; IF NOT, HOW TO DISPOSE OF CARGO. SUGGESTION WAS MADE TO DUMP IT AT SEA BUT AID REP PROTESTED THAT AID/W MUST BE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ANY DISPOSITION.

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(F) CFC AND CAPTAIN DEODHAR DISPUTING QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCHARGING THE REMAINING CARGO.

3. SITUATION MAY REQUIRE COLOMBO TDY OF AID SPECIALIST OR LEGAL COUNSEL. WILL ADVISE. MEANWHILE, WOJL APPRECIATE AID/W VIEWS AND GUIDANCE BY PRIORITY CABLE. VAN HOLLEN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FERTILIZERS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE051866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWWILEY:DKK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760081-0584
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760398/aaaadind.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 34101
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AID LOAN 383-TAPQT AID-OWNED FERTILIZER ON MV TONG HWA
TAGS: EAID, CE, US
To: SINGAPORE
BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006